

Frequently Asked Questions
September 2015

Generic Accountability Measures and Dolphin Allocation Amendment

What does the Generic Accountability Measures and Dolphin Allocation Amendment do?

- This action would amend the fishery management plans for snapper-grouper and golden crab in South Atlantic, and for dolphin and wahoo in the Atlantic.
- Sector allocations would be revised for dolphin, and accountability measures would be updated for snapper-grouper species and golden crab.

How would the Generic Accountability Measures and Dolphin Allocation Amendment revise dolphin allocations?

- Ten percent of the dolphin annual catch limit (1,534,485 pounds whole weight) would be allocated to the commercial sector and 90 percent of the annual catch limit (13,810,361 pounds whole weight) would be allocated to the recreational sector.
- The previous allocations were 92.46 percent for the recreational sector, and 7.54 percent for the commercial sector.

Which species and species complexes would have revised accountability measures?

- The commercial and recreational accountability measures would be revised for black grouper, mutton snapper, yellowtail snapper, greater amberjack, red porgy, gag, golden tilefish, red grouper, snowy grouper, gray triggerfish, hogfish, scamp, Atlantic spadefish, bar jack, the other snappers complex, the other jacks complex, the other shallow-water grouper complex, the other porgies complex, wreckfish (recreational), and golden crab (commercial).

How would the accountability measures change?

- The accountability measures would allow NOAA Fisheries to implement in-season closures when each recreational annual catch limit is met or projected to be met.
- The accountability measures would also be modified to trigger post-season paybacks, which means that the amount of the annual catch limit overage in one year would be deducted from the annual catch limit the next year, or the length of the next fishing season would be reduced.

What would the new accountability measures be for the commercial and recreational sectors?

- If the commercial sector's annual catch limit is met or projected to be met, that sector would be closed for the remainder of the fishing season.
- If the recreational sector's annual catch limit is met or is projected to be met, that sector would be closed for the remainder of the fishing season, unless, the regional administrator determines that a closure is unnecessary, regardless if the population status of the species, or one or more species in a species complex, is overfished (the population is too low).
- If the commercial sector's annual catch limit is exceeded, the annual catch limit in the following fishing season would be reduced by the amount of the overage only if the

species, or one or more species in a species complex, is overfished and the total annual catch limit (commercial and recreational combined) is exceeded.

- If the recreational sector's annual catch limit is exceeded, the length of the recreational sector's fishing season would be reduced **and** the annual catch limit in the following fishing season would be reduced by the amount of the overage only if the species, or one or more species in a species complex, is overfished and the total annual catch limit (commercial and recreational combined) is exceeded.

Who would be affected by this Amendment?

- Commercial and recreational fishers who fish for dolphin in federal waters (3-200 miles offshore) from Maine through the East Coast of Florida.
- Commercial and recreational fishers who fish for snapper-grouper species (black grouper, mutton snapper, yellowtail snapper, greater amberjack, red porgy, gag, golden tilefish, red grouper, snowy grouper, gray triggerfish, hogfish, scamp, Atlantic spadefish, bar jack, the other snappers complex, the other jacks complex, the other shallow-water grouper complex, the other porgies complex) in federal waters (3-200 miles offshore) off North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.
- Recreational fishers who fish for wreckfish in federal waters (3-200 miles offshore) off North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.
- Commercial golden crab fishers in federal waters (3-200 miles offshore) off North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. There is no recreational component to the golden crab fishery.

How can I comment on the Proposed Rule for the Generic AM Amendment?

- NOAA Fisheries is accepting comments on the proposed rule for the Generic AM Amendment **from September 29, 2015, to October 29, 2015.**
- Comments on the Generic AM Amendment proposed rule can be submitted electronically via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2013-0181, click the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments. Written comments can be submitted to the address below.

Where can I get more information on the Generic AM Amendment and its Proposed Rule?

- Contact NOAA Fisheries
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By FAX: (727) 824-5308
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- The Generic AM Amendment may be found online at the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office Web site at:
http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/2014/am_dolphin_allocation/index.html
or the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Web site at <http://www.safmc.net>.